

METHOD FOR ISOLATING POLYPHENYLENE ETHER POLYMER
RESINS FROM SOLUTION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of removing substantially all solvent from a solution containing a polyphenylene ether polymer resin with little by-product formation (less than 250 ppm) is provided. The method employs a wiped thin film evaporator with a cylindrical heating chamber operating under conditions that satisfy the relationships defined by Equations I and II.

$$5.3 \times 10^{24} RL \delta \exp^{(-24123/T)} /m < C \quad |$$

$$100 - (4960AP/Tm) < C \quad II;$$

Yields are maximized wherein values for feed rate (m) and percent solids (C) are selected to provide a maximum value for the output, Q, determined from the equation $m * C = Q$ and the melt viscosity of the polyphenylene ether product is less than 50,000 centipoise at the operating temperature of the cylindrical heating chamber.